

Vikings and Bucks suffer another loss

Two teams have suddenly gone stagnant, while another is red-hot, in the interior division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

Vernon Vikings suffered their sixth straight loss Tuesday when edged 3-1 by Bellingham Blazers before 1,596 fans in the American city.

Meanwhile, Penticton Broncos, now on a six game winning streak, handed first-place Kelowna Buckaroos their fourth straight loss, a 7-5 decision.

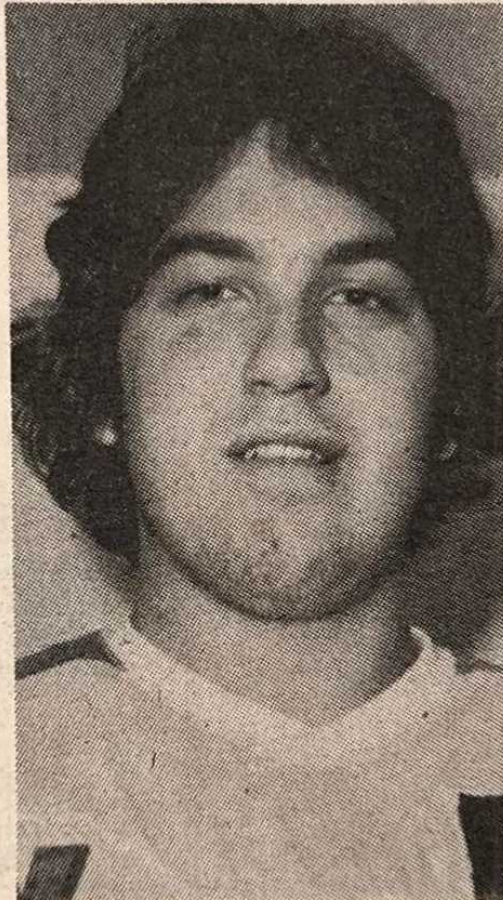
In Bellingham, Randy Rudynuk put Blazers ahead 1-0 in the first period but Jeff Boychuk evened the score for Vikings early in the second.

Randy Betty scored the winner at 9:39 of the final period and Stan Smyl fired a shot into an empty net with just one second remaining in the game.

Each team was assessed four minors and two majors while the lone misconduct went to the Vikings.

SCAMMEL HOT

One Vernon player who was not to blame was goalie Jim Scammel. Scammel turned in perhaps his best game of the season, blocking 42 shots and



JEFF BOYCHUK

... only goal

picking up the game's first star.

Vikings played well but

were badly unorganized in the Bellingham end. Sharp passing, finish around the net, and hard work in the corners, were all missing.

Vernon ends its four game road trip tonight in Langley when they tangle with the Lords.

SCORED THREE

Meanwhile, Gord MacKay led Penticton to its victory with three goals while Marc Severyn and Wade Jowett scored two each.

Doug Berry and Archie McKinnon collected two apiece for Kelowna with Brad Owens adding a single.

The loss cut Kelowna's lead over the Broncos to 14 points. Two weeks ago, that margin stood at 24 points. Penticton leads the third-place Vikings by 12 points, and Merritt Centennials trail Vernon by 10.

Bucks will also be out to snap their losing streak tonight when they travel to Merritt.

Panthers closer this time around